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B5 345 C73 Psalms 1905 *Reserve*



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B5 345 C73 Psalms 1905 Present

"The Lord is my Shepherd," in Cree.

CREE is the mother-tongue of a tribe of Indians in the Canadian North West. They are said to number about 15,000 people, who range over a vast tract of country stretching from the shores of Hudson Bay to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

THE complete Cree Bible has been printed and published by the Bible Society and circulated among the Cree Indians from its Canadian depôts. Recently a thorough revision of this Bible has been carried out for the Society by Dr. J. A. Mackay, Archdeacon of Saskatchewan, who was born in the North West and has lived and taught among the Crees for over fifty years.

[illegible]

PSALM XXIII. IN CREE.

A specimen of the new revision of the Cree Bible,
which has just been published by the
British and Foreign Bible Society.

[P.T.O.]

THE Cree Indians were first evangelised more than eighty years ago by missionaries belonging to the C.M.S., and the W.M.S. has also been at work among them since 1840. On account of the extreme length of many Cree words the earliest translators found it inconvenient and cumbersome to use the Roman character. Moreover, it was difficult to teach a tribe constantly moving from place to place in search of fresh hunting grounds. In 1841, the Rev. James Evans, one of the earliest Methodist missionaries to the Hudson Bay Territory, invented a syllabic system, in which the various syllables of the language were represented by lines, circles, and other geometrical figures. Mr. Evans cut his first type from the lead lining of some tea-chests begged from traders, and with ink manufactured from soot and sturgeon oil he printed his first book on paper made of birch bark. His invention proved successful beyond all expectation; the Indians easily learn to read this syllabic character which has been adopted for printing the Cree Bible.

TO prepare and produce the first edition of 1,000 copies of the revised Cree Bible—including the expense of making plates—has cost the Bible Society altogether £1,800, or 36s. a copy. The books are sold to their Indian readers at an almost nominal price. Only the merest fraction of the sum expended upon this Bible can come back to the Bible Society from the proceeds of its sale.

ARCHDEACON MACKAY reports that the Cree Indians greatly value God's Word. In their language "Christian" is translated by a word which literally means "praying man," and the Cree Indians are a praying people. They make a daily practice of family worship, and religiously observe Sunday. Wherever they are, morning and evening, the voice of prayer and praise goes up from their humble dwellings.

CREE is only one among FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN LANGUAGES in which the Bible Society has helped to translate, print or circulate the Scriptures, TWENTY-EIGHT of these being new versions which have appeared during the last four years.

WILL YOU HELP TO BEAR THE COST?

Contributions may be paid to the Treasurer of the local Auxiliary, or to
The Secretaries,

The Bible House, 146, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.



